

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10
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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 734

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6603

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 6745

SECDEF FOR TOD HULLIN; USIA FOR IPS/PE

EO11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR NATO OCON

SUBJECT PRESS CONFERENCE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD,
NATO HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM DECEMBER 8.

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT NATO
HEADQUARTERS IN BURSSLS, DECEMBER 8, BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DONALD RUMSFELD FOLLOWING THE SEMI-ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING
HERE OF THE NATO DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE, DECEMBER 7 AND 8?

BEGIN TEXT:

SECRETARY RUMSFELD: GREETINGS, I KNOW YOU SUFFER FROM
NOT HAVING THE COMMUNIQUE AT THIS POINT. MY UNDERSTAND-
ING IS THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE BRIEFING LATER
TODAY AND HE, OF COURSE, WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE
COMMUNIQUE IN DETAIL AND BY THAT TIME I WOULD IMAGINE
YOU WOULD HAVE IT. I WILL BE RELATIVELY BRIEF BOTH IN
MY REMARKS AND IN THE QUESTIONS BECAUSE HE WILL BE COMING
DOWN SHORTLY.

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IN MY JUDGEMENT WE HAVE HAD A GOOD SET OF MEETINGS.
WE'VE LOOKED AT THE CURRENT MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF THE
SOVIET UNION AND THE WARSAW PACT, THE KINDS OF EXPANSIONS

AND THEIR EFFORT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN OVER A PERIOD OF SOME YEARS NOW. WE DISCUSSED THE FACTS ABOUT THE TRENDS IN THE MILITARY BALANCE. I BELIEVE THAT THE MEETINGS ARE HELPFUL TO ALL MINISTERS IN TERMS OF JUDGING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN TERMS OF THEM MAKING THE CASE FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IS NECESSARY... AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS IN OUR LEVEL OF EFFORT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

VARIOUS BRIEFINGS WERE MADE. NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES BRIEFED AND THERE WERE DELIBERATIONS ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT WAS PRESENTED. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE IS A GENERAL AWARENESS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE THAT'S HEALTHY, NAMELY THAT WE DO HAVE DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE TODAY. THE CONCERN IS THE TRENDS THAT HAVE BEEN IN PLACE OVER A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME - A RATHER STEADY EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DURING MUCH OF THAT TIME A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF MANY OF THE ALLIED NATIONS TO REDUCE THEIR LEVEL OF EFFORT IN REAL TERMS. THIS INCLUDES THE UNITED STATES. UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO.

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS OF COURSE THE UNITED STATES MADE A JUDGMENT THAT IT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ALLOW THOSE TRENDS TO CONTINUE AND THAT WERE THEY TO CONTINUE YOU COULD CONCEIVABLY INJECT A FUNDAMENTAL INSTABILITY INTO THE WORLD SITUATION. THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS, AND INDEED, THROUGH THE CONGRESS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS TAKEN STEPS TO SEE THAT OUR EFFORT IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

I WON'T GO INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE SOVIET UNION. I THINK YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF THEM. THEIR DEFENSE SPENDING HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING IN REAL TERMS. THE LEVEL OF THEIR EFFORT, THE SIZE OF THEIR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, THE MODERNIZATION OF THEIR STRATEGIC FORCES, THE SUBSTANTIAL MODERNIZATION OF THEIR GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES, THE ADDITION OF SOME NEARLY 2,000 TACTICAL AIRCRAFT SINCE
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THE EARLY 1960'S, THE INCREASE IN DIVISIONS FROM 141 TO 168 AND THE OBVIOUS, DURING THAT PERIOD, INCREASE IN THE SOPHISTICATION OF THOSE WEAPONS AS WELL AS THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY OF THE SOVIET UNION TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL WEAPONS OF INCREASING CAPABILITY AND SOPHISTICATION.

THE ONLY OTHER THING I MIGHT SAY IS THAT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, HAVING LOOKED AT THIS ALLIANCE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AND HEARING ABOUT ITS IMMINENT DEMISE FROM TIME TO TIME, IT IS ENCOURAGING TO ME TO SEE A VERY

HIGH LEVEL OF COOPERATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, INDEED
HIGHER IN TERMS OF THE SMOOTHNESS OF THAT COOPERATION
THAN AT ANY TIME DURING MY EXPERIENCE. I THINK THE
ALLIANCE IS HEALTHY.

I LEAVE MY POST AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE NEXT MONTH
WITH A GOOD DEAL OF OPTIMISM ABOUT THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE:
THE FACT THAT IT HAS SURVIVED SOME 26 YEARS AND THE FACT
THAT IT'S WORKING, I THINK, REASONABLY SMOOTHLY AT THE
PRESENT TIME. WITH AN APPRECIATION FOR THE FRIENDSHIPS
HERE RESPECTFUL OF THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK OF 15 FREE
NATIONS COMING TOGETHER AND SORTING THROUGH THEIR
PROBLEMS BY CONSENT, NOT COMMAND; AWARE OF THE FACT
THERE ARE REALLY VERY FEW NATIONS IN THE WORLD, VERY FEW
FREE PEOPLE, PROPORTIONALLY; THAT IT IS A DANGEROUS AND
UNTIDY WORLD, I AM, FRANKLY, REASSURED BY THE FACT THAT
THERE IS AN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND THAT IT IS ON WATCH AND
DOING ITS JOB.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS.

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6604
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 USNATO 6745

SECDEF FOR TOD HULLIN; USIA FOR IPS/PE

Q. WHAT ASSURANCE WERE YOU ABLE TO GIVE THE OTHER
DEFENSE MINISTERS THAT THE ASSESSMENT YOU MAKE IS GOING
TO BE THE ASSESSMENT MADE BY THE SUCCEEDING ADMINISTRA-
TION IN WASHINGTON?

A. THE QUESTION IS TO WHAT EXTENT COULD I ASSURE MY
COLLEAGUES IN THE DEFENSE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS THAT MY

ASSESSMENT WOULD BE THE ASSESSMENT THAT WOULD BE MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL TAKE OFFICE ON JANUARY 20TH. THE ANSWER IS THAT I DIDN'T TRY TO. WHAT WE DISCUSSED IN THERE WAS NOT RUMSFELD'S OPINION, BUT FACTS. FACTS DON'T CHANGE. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE PRESENTED FACTS, THE SACEUR PRESENTED FACTS, THE VARIOUS NATIONS INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED FACTS, AND THE FACTS ARE WHAT THEY ARE. THOSE FACTS DRIVE REASONABLE PEOPLE, I THINK TO CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS. IT CERTAINLY WASN'T MY ROLE DURING THIS PARTICULAR PERIOD TO IN ANY WAY SUGGEST THAT I COULD SPEAK FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT IS OBVIOUSLY VERY CAPABLE OF DOING THAT. NOR WAS IT MY FUNCTION TO TRY TO PUT A PARTICULAR CAST OR CANT OR TWIST ON THE FACTS.

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IT WAS SIMPLY TO SAY HERE'S WHERE WE ARE, HERE'S WHAT IS AGREED BY THE NATIONS, AND THEN TO DISCUSS IT IN THAT CONTEXT.

Q. (IN ITALIAN).

A. THE SECRETARY: THE QUESTION IS DID I IN FACT PROPOSE THAT SPAIN SHOULD SIT IN WITH OBSERVERS AT HIGH LEVEL NATO MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE. I READ THAT IN THE MORNING PAPER ON THE FRONT PAGE. THE ANSWER IS: I DID NOT. I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IN ERROR, HOWEVER, AND I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN THE ERROR. IF I RECALL THE WORDS I USED, I MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS MET RECENTLY AND THAT THEY HAD TAKEN NOTICE OF THE PROCESS TAKING PLACE IN SPAIN AND INDICATED THAT THEY HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO INCLUDE SOME OBSERVERS AT NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN MEETINGS, PROSPECTIVELY. MR COMMENT INVOLVED A GENERAL APPROVAL OF THAT DEGREE OF FORTHCOMINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS. I IN NO WAY TRIED TO PRESCRIBE IN WHAT WAY NATO AS AN INSTITUTION, AS OPPOSED TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS, OUGHT TO PROCEED BY WAY OF BECOMING FORTHCOMING.

Q. (QUESTION ASKED IN FRENCH).

A. THE SECRETARY: THE QUESTION ASKED WHETHER OR NOT I'VE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSITION OF SPAIN WITH RESPECT TO NATO. THE ANSWER IS THAT THAT, OF COURSE, IS FOR SPAIN TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON, AND THAT WAS REFLECTED DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT IS CORRECT. IF IS NOT FOR THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY OR, INDEED, NATO AS A WHOLE TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ABOUT WHAT SPAIN OUGHT TO DO. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS FOR NATO AS A WHOLE TO REFLECT ON WHAT IT MIGHT WANT TO DO JUST AS THE NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS

REFLECTED ON THAT. BUT CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY UP TO SPAIN IN THE EVENT THAT THE PROCESS TOWARDS A MORE DEMORATIC SYSTEM CAN CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND SOME DEGREE OF FORTHCOMINGNESS WERE TO BE PROPOSED-- IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY UP TO SPAIN AS TO HOW THEY WOULD INTERACT WITH SUCH PROPOSALS.

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Q. GIVEN THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS TALKED IN TERMS OF CUTTING THE DEFENSE BUDGET, DID YOU IN LISTENING TO YOUR COLLEAGUES TODAY GET ANY NOTES OF ANXIETY ON THE PART OF WESTERN EUROPE ABOUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE PENTAGON BUDGET BACK HOME?

A. NO

Q. MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU CONSIDER WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED TODAY ON AWACS -- CAN IT BE CONSIDERED AS A DECISION IN PRINCIPAL IN FAVOR OF THE SYSTEM.

A. WELL, THE QUESTION INVOLVES HOW YOU WOULD CHARACTERIZE WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE DPC FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE DISCUSSION ON AWACS. I WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE THAT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO DISCUSS. I THINK THAT, SUBJECT TO HOW HE DESCRIBES IT, AND I WOULD CERTAINLY DEFER TO HIM SINCE HE IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT A CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL, WITH RESPECT TO PARTICULARLY LOW-LEVEL AIR, WAS GENERALLY AGREED AS A NATO REQUIREMENT. MY SENSE OF THE MEETING WAS CERTAINLY A POSITIVE ONE. I WAS ENCOURAGED, AND MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING IS THAT THERE WILL BE MEETINGS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE VERY PROMPTLY TO SORT THROUGH SOME ASPECTS OF THE MATTER THAT ONE OR TWO NATIONS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SORTED THROUGH PRIOR TO MOVING TO A DECISION, AT WHICH POINT THEN IT REQUIRES IN SOME INSTANCES THE ENDORSEMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES. IF I HAD TO CHARACTERIZE IT, I WOULD SAY THAT I AM VERY ENCOURAGED THAT THERE WAS A VERY REAL RECOGNITION OF THE CORRECTNESS OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES' JUDGMENT THAT AN AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM IS IN FACT A NECESSITY FOR THE ALLIANCE.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, REGARDING THE FACTUAL SITUATION ON THE SOVIET WARSAW PACT BUILDUP, I WOULD LIKE YOU, IF YOU WOULD, TO RELATE THAT TO THE RECENT HISTORY OF WHAT IS CALLED DETENTE DO YOU FEEL THAT WE HAVE LOST GROUND

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IN FOLLOWING A POLICY CALLED "DETENTE" AND THAT "DETENTE" MAY
HAVE BEEN PARTLY A HOAX THAT WE WERE ON THE RECEIVING END
OF?

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 USNATO 6745

SECDEF FOR TOD HULLIN; USIA FOR IPS/PE

A. WELL, THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, AND I SUPPOSE EVERYONE
KIND OF LOOKS AT THIS SUBJECT A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENTLY,
--BUT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FREE PEOPLE, WHAT WE HAVE
TO DO IS ASSURE OURSELVES THAT WE HAVE THE KINDS OF
DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES THAT WILL PROVIDE A DETERRENT
SO THAT THERE IS PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS AREA OF THE
WORLD. THE REALITY IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION EXISTS;
THAT IT DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THE THINGS THAT WE BELIEVE
IN, BY A DARN SIGHT; THAT THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY
POWER; AND THAT THEIR MILITARY CAPABILITY HAS EVOLVED OVER
THE PAST 20 YEARS IN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL WAY. WHEN ONE
GOES BACK TO THE POST WORLD WAR II SOVIET UNION AND
COMPARES IT WITH TODAY, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY HAVE
MOVED FROM AN OX CART SOCIETY TO A RATHER SOPHISTICATED
MILITARY POWER. NOW THEY ARE THERE, AND THEY DON'T
AGREE WITH WHAT WE AGREE WITH IN TERMS OF THE DIGNITY
OF INDIVIDUALS, IN TERMS OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS,
FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF
RELIGION. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE,
WHILE WE ARE MAINTAINING DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE AT AN
ADEQUATE LEVEL TO ASSURE PEACE AND STABILITY, THAT WE
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ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO TEST WHETHER AT THAT FIVE POINT IN TIME WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN FINDING AREAS OF AGREEMENT THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASON, ARE IN OUR COMMON INTEREST. WE HAVE BEEN DOING THAT IN THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS, AND I THINK THAT IS USEFUL TO DO. WE HAVE BEEN DOING THAT IN THE MBFR TALKS IN VIENNA, AND I THINK THAT THAT IS USEFUL TO DO. IT, OF COURSE, REQUIRES THAT DURING THAT PERIOD-- AND EVERYONE I KNOW WHO HAS EVER DEALT WITH THESE SUBJECTS WOULD AGREE -- THAT DURING THAT PERIOD ONE MAINTAINS ONE'S CAPABILITIES. SO, I THINK THAT IT GOES TO FAR IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR QUESTION TO SUGGEST THAT SOME SORT OF ERROR IS INVOLVED THERE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHAT YOU MUST DO IS YOU MUST MAINTAIN YOUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, ASSURE THAT THAT THE DETERRENCE IS HEALTHY, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY ENGAGE IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS AND SEE IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND SOME AREAS OF AGREEMENT. IF IT IS, WONDERFUL. IF IT ISN'T BE PATIENT AND KEEP WORKING AND TRY TO ACHIEVE THEM.

Q. IN THAT CONNECTION, SIR, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CONTINUED GRANTING OF LOANS AND CREDITS ON EASY TERMS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EFFECT ON THEIR INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY, AND CONSEQUENT EFFECT ON THEIR MILITARY CAPACITY?

A. A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO NATIONS IS A MULTI-FACETED THING, AND TO TAKE OUT ONE PIECE OF THAT MULTI-FACETED RELATIONSHIP AND TRY TO EXAMINE IT AND SAY WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT ALL BY ITSELF IS REALLY NOT A VERY USEFUL EXERCISE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHAT ONE MUST DO IS LOOK TO THE ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP AND JUDGE THE WHOLE, AND THAT IS THE WAY I PREFER TO DO IT. THE QUESTION YOU ASKED, OF COURSE, IS A QUESTION THAT FALLS MORE IN THE AREAS OF MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS THAN SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE. I HAVE MY VIEWS ON IT, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH IT IN ISOLATION.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES, DO YOU THINK, OF THE GREEK AND TURKISH AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES BEING APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY WITH
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THE COMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

A. I HAVE NO CRYSTAL BALL. THE QUESTION IS WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR SORTING THROUGH THE AGREEMENTS WITH

TURKEY AND GREECE. I DON'T KNOW. I KNOW WHAT THE FACTS
ARE. THE FACTS ARE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE IMPORTANT
ALLIES IN NATO, AND OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT IN WHAT
WAY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE NEW CONGRESS WILL DEAL
WITH THOSE VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
MY HOPE IS THAT ALL OF US WILL RECOGNIZE HOW CRITICALLY
IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO BE
HEALTHY, BE STRONG, BE FUNCTIONING, BE FULLY INTEGRATED
IN OUR INTEGRATED COMMAND SYSTEM, AND THAT THAT IS IN FACT
IMPORTANT TO OUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES--IT IS IMPORTANT
TO THE DETERRENT. IF WE KEEP PUTTING THE BIGGER PROBLEM
BEFORE US, I THINK IT HELPS CONTRIBUTE TO AN EARLIER
RESOLUTION OF SOME VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WHICH I
CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO MINIMIZE IN ANY WAY. I'M A STRONG
SUPPORTER OF BOTH.
END TEXT.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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